SENATE BILL No. 36

## **Introduced by Senator Ridley-Thomas**

December 4, 2006

An act relating to education finance.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 36, as introduced, Ridley-Thomas. California Community Colleges.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. Existing law establishes community college districts throughout the state, and authorizes the districts to provide instruction to students at the campuses operated by these districts. Existing law establishes a system for the apportionment of state funding to community college districts. This system is generally based on calculations related to the number of full-time equivalent students (FTES) in attendance at each district.

This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to reform the governance and funding of the state's community colleges in order to increase and stabilize state support for, and to improve the performance of, the California Community Colleges.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

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12 13 (1) California's community colleges enroll over 2,500,000 students each year, providing opportunities for higher education and the skills to be competitive in California's workplace.

- (2) California's community colleges are affordable. Low student fees and financial aid have made community colleges a gateway to a better life for millions of Californians.
- (3) Business leaders call California's community colleges a vital component of our state's workforce development, contributing to a healthy economy.
- (4) The state can fund community college enrollment growth without raising taxes or taking funds from elementary and secondary schools. A dual funding mechanism under Proposition 98 will achieve both.
- 14 (b) It is, therefore, the intent of the Legislature to enact 15 legislation to reform the governance and funding of the state's 16 community colleges in order to increase and stabilize state support 17 for, and to improve the performance of, the California Community 18 Colleges.